

MOTHERCRAFT

A MOVEMENT FORWARDED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

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FOREWORD

The purpose of Mothercraft is to give school girls definite instruction in the care of babies.

During their formative years, girls offer a splendid opportunity for the establishment of those habits of life that make for health and consequent usefulness. Now, as never before, we realize that the strength of a nation depends primarily on the spiritual and physical health of its citizens and especially on the fitting of children to assume in later years their duties as fathers and mothers.

SUB-TITLE

THE STRENGTH OF A NATION LIES IN THE HEALTH OF ITS CHILDREN.

Scene 1

Close ups of beautiful babies, taken in various backgrounds one in bath, one with gold fish, one in crib, one throwing kisses, patting little hands and smiling, among flowers.

SUB-TITLE 2

MATERNAL INSTINCT DEVELOPS EARLY IN CHILDHOOD.

Scene 2

Little girls with dolls, party attractive setting, child with doll comes out of house joined by two others with dolls in carriages, tea party under trees.

SUB-TITLE 3

SCHOOL GIRLS OF TODAY ARE THE MOTHERS AND TEACHERS OF TOMORROW.

Scene 3

Group of school girls in school with nurse. Nurse talks to girl holds book which she shows - points to title and says "Children Well and Happy". These words flashed on screen above her. Nurse opens book and shows picture - talking to girls. Baby brought in and held by school girl.

SUB-TITLE 4

"YOUR HANDS AND NAILS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CLEANED BEFORE HANDLING THE BABY".

Scene 4

Nurse speaks to girls, washes hands and cleans nails.

SUB-TITLE 5

"THE FIRST CARE OF A BABY IS TO CLEAN HIS EYES USING A CLEAN PIECE OF COTTON FOR EACH EYE. A DOLL IS USED IN CLASS DEMONSTRATION OF EARLY INFANT CARE".

Scene 5

Nurse cleanses the baby's eyes.

SUB-TITLE 6

"THE BABY'S FIRST BATH SHOULD BE OF WARM OLIVE OIL APPLIED WITH A PIECE OF SOFT COTTON. A WATER BATH IS NOT GIVEN UNTIL THE SECOND DAY.

Scene 6

Nurse demonstrates oil bath.

(Close up of care of eyes and of the bath).

Scene 7

Nurse placing night slip on doll.

SUB-TITLE 7 "THE BABY SHOULD HAVE HIS OWN BED AND BE PROTECTED FROM BRIGHT LIGHT AND DRAFTS".

Scene 8

Doll placed in bed by school girl, carefully shown by nurses how to support baby's back. Screen placed, and baby's eyes shielded from the light.

SUB-TITLE 8 "THE BABY SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM FLIES AND MOSQUITOES".

Scene 9

Baby in basket covered with netting by girl.

SUB-TITLE 10 BE SURE THAT THE BABY'S BIRTH IS PROMPTLY AND ACCURATELY REGISTERED. LATER HE MAY NEED HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO PROVE HIS:

Identity
Right to inherit property
Right to seek employment
Right to enter school
Right to vote

Scene 10.

Close up of nurse with certificate filled out.

SUB-TITLE 11 BABY WELL AND HAPPY BECAUSE FED MOTHER'S MILK.

Scene 11.

Beautiful mother nursing baby.

(One of the closing in scenes)

SUB-TITLE 12 BABY IS WELL AND HAPPY WHEN BOTTLE-FED, IF UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A PHYSICIAN.

Scene 12.

(Home scene -- father, mother and children)

Baby drinks out of a bottle. Looks well and happy. Doctor enters, looks at baby, writes prescription to modify milk, hands it to mother who holds it in her hand. Doctor leaves as daughter comes in who says "Mother I learned at class how to modify baby's milk".

SUB-TITLE 13

THE MILK USED IN YOUR HOME SHOULD COME FROM
CLEAN HEALTHY COWS.

Scene 13

Short scene of cows, men milking. (Walker-Gordon).

SUB-TITLE 13 A

SCHOOL INSTRUCTION IS CARRIED INTO THE HOME.

Scene 14

(Omitted)

Girl watching at door for milk man. Milk man comes to door
and hands her a bottle of milk.

SUB-TITLE 14

MILK IN THE HOME MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND COLD.

Scene 15

After she wipes the top of the bottle off with a clean
cloth she places it in the refrigerator (white nursery one).
Child in the kitchen with Elinor.

SUB-TITLE 15

THE BOTTLES, NIPPLES AND ALL UTENSILS USED IN
PREPARING THE BABY'S FOOD MUST BE WASHED, BOILED
AND COOLED BEFORE USING.

Scene 16

Elinor brings in a tray with all the utensils used in
preparing the baby's food. She washes her hands carefully
and cleans nails, looks at them, then she modifies the milk,
following directions written.

SUB-TITLE 16

MILK THAT IS NOT CERTIFIED SHOULD BE PASTEURIZED.

Scene 17

Pasteurizing of milk.

Elinor looks at the thermometer and replaces it in the
kettle and places it on the back of stove.

SUB-TITLE 17

THE MILK IS COOLED QUICKLY AND PLACED ON THE ICE.

SUB-TITLE 18

WARM MILK BEFORE GIVING IT TO THE BABY.

Scene 18

Elinor in the kitchen takes the milk from the warmer,
tests the temperature on her wrist and takes the bottle to
her mother. Elinor holds the baby while feeding.
In correct position.

Scene 19

Elinor takes her book and begins studying, turns to her mother and talks.

SUB-TITLE 19

"MOTHER, TOMORROW WE LEARN HOW TO BATHE AND HOW TO WEIGH THE BABY".

Scene 20

School group.

SUB-TITLE 20

THE BABY SHOULD BE BATHED IN A WARM ROOM.

Scene 21

Baby that is undressed and wrapped in a warm blanket is brought in by a school girl.

Scene 22

Nurse shows the girls a bath thermometer and explains its use. One of the girls tests the temperature of the water with the thermometer and then her elbow, nurse explaining to the class. Girl looks at thermometer and nods to teacher after testing water with elbow. Baby placed in tub.

SUB-TITLE 21

TEACH THE BABY TO LIKE THE BATH AND HE WILL NOT BE FRIGHTENED.

Scene 23

Baby in tub. Girl hands baby a toy that floats. She plays and splashes a bit. Baby is then taken out of tub and carefully dried and powdered.

SUB-TITLE 22

"WEIGH THE BABY ONCE A WEEK. IF HE DOES NOT GAIN IN WEIGHT CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR".

Scene 24

Scales, screen to protect the baby from drafts. Baby is weighed and school girl records weight on blackboard.

SUB-TITLE 23

"THE BABY'S CLOTHING MUST BE SOFT, LOOSE AND ADAPTED TO THE TEMPERATURE AND CLIMATE".

Scene 25

The nurse shows clothing and talks to school. Girl hands her the shirt.

Scene 26

Baby dressed for summer, nurse calls attention to clothing and little bare feet.

SUB-TITLE 24

OLDER CHILD

"MANY TOYS GET DIRTY. SELECT TOYS THAT MAY BE WASHED."

Scene 27

School girl brings baby in with fuzzy toy in her hand and a pacifier on her wrist. Nurse takes toy and shakes her head, talks to the school, then she takes pacifier from the baby and shakes her head and talks to girls.

SUB-TITLE 25

"A CLEAN TOOTH WILL NOT DECAY. AS SOON AS THE FIRST TOOTH APPEARS IT SHOULD BE CLEANED EACH DAY".

Scene 26

Nurse cleaning tooth of baby with girl assisting.

SUB-TITLE 26

"GIVE THE BABY PLENTY OF COOL BOILED WATER TO DRINK"

Scene 27

Girl gives baby water from a cup to drink.

SUB-TITLE 27

Scene 28

(Home Scene)

Girl taking care of baby, followed by a closing in close up.

SUB-TITLE 28

MOTHERCRAFT ENTHUSES MANY GROUPS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN.

Short scenes of the following:

AMERICANIZATION MOVEMENT ... Mothers with babies (clothing)

GIRL SCOUTS Making baby's layette

CAMP FIRE GIRLS Being instructed by nurse

PLAYGROUND MOVEMENT - Newton.

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